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ments which Dr. Baikie had left behind him. He (the President) had a strong personal interest in the labours of Dr. Baikie, because he was President of the Society at the time the expedition to the Niger was decided upon. He wrote to his lamented friend, Sir John Richardson, the eminent naturalist, then the head of the Medical Department of the Naval Establishment near Portsmouth, and Dr. Baikie, who was a young assistant-surgeon under him, at once volunteered for this special and most dangerous service. Dr. Baikie was wrecked in the steamer the *Day Spring* in ascending the Niger in 1857, and showed his fertility of resource in establishing his party in camp on the shore, saving what they could from the vessel, and cultivating relations with the neighbouring chiefs, especially with the Sultan of Sakatu; thus supporting the party in this position until another steamer arrived from England. Dr. Baikie passed seven years in that region, and, under the auspices of Her Majesty's Government, established at Lukoja a station, with the object of opening up commercial relations with the intelligent chiefs of the neighbouring country, and he had advanced a considerable way in producing the best feeling and harmony between the native tribes and the British establishment. Now, when he told them that he had the authority of Commodore Wilmet, the late Commander of our naval forces upon that coast, for stating that this station had attained a degree of usefulness that was highly creditable to the British nation, they would willingly offer their tribute of admiration to the devotion of Dr. Baikie. After passing through all the trials incident to a long residence in that country, he was, on his return home, at Sierra Leone, suddenly seized with fever and carried off. He, the President, had most willingly signed a petition now before the Lords of the Treasury in favour of the relatives of Dr. Baikie, who, he was sorry to state, were left in bad circumstances.

Mr. TRELAWEY SAUNDERS said he should be sorry if the paper of his lamented friend, Dr. Baikie, passed without remark. There must be many who had a kindly recollection of him, a most genial man, learned and well-informed; and he had added very considerably to our knowledge of Africa. It was through his voyage on the Chadda that he first became known as a geographer. It was then almost a new river to us, and it was through his labours that we became so well acquainted with its course. It appeared by the present paper that he had visited another new river, the Kaduna. This journey was through a country lying between the course Clapperton took on the north, and that which Lander took in his attempt to reach the Niger after Clapperton's death; so that it was a welcome addition to our geographical knowledge. This great interior country was an elevated region, possessing large towns, forests, and a climate suitable to Europeans. The death of Dr. Baikie was the more to be deplored from the circumstance that he appeared to have left no one to succeed him as the apostle of African exploration in the Soudan. If Africa is ever to be civilised, it is to the Soudan that we must look as the chief seat of any movement for that purpose. It was the seat of a great commerce and of a great population. It contained also the largest Mohamedan empires in Negroland, the Fellatah territories extending from the coast nearly half across the continent, thus affording some proof of the capability of the Negro for organisation. He should be proud to see the day when some combination, like the East India Company, would take a strong hold of Africa, and deal with the natives as we had done in India.

2. *A Visit to Vohimarina, the North-East Province of Madagascar. By the BISHOP OF MAURITIUS.*

THIS province, called Vohimare by Europeans, is on the whole mountainous, but it possesses, along the courses of its rivers, large

and fertile valleys, which present every advantage for colonization : they might be made to grow all kinds of tropical produce, and the woods, especially those around the Bay of Diego Suarez, abound with excellent timber. It is only the neighbourhood of the Bays of Vohimare and Diego Suarez that the country is inhabited, the interior being peopled only by wild oxen and a few scattered hunters who are employed in their chase. The indigenous population is composed of Sacalavas and Betsimsarakas ; the dominant Hovas have a few ill-built forts at some distance from the sea-shores. The houses of the Betsimsarakas are very clean and neat, much more so than those of the Hovas or Sacalavas. This the author thought might be attributed to their intercourse with Europeans. The beautifully fair countenances and the partly European features of some of them, and the many foreign tombs at Vohimare and elsewhere, lead to the supposition that many Europeans (some say old pirates) settled on the east coast of Madagascar and married native women. The bullocks of Vohimare, owing to the superior pasture, are the best in Madagascar, and fetch a higher price at Mauritius than any others. The paper gave some detailed information concerning the valleys, rivers, and forests of this part of Madagascar, and also contained extracts from the diary of the author kept during a journey in the province, in September 1865. It will be printed entire in the 'Journal,' vol. xxxvii.

The PRESIDENT in returning thanks to the author, said that those who had read the interesting work of Mr. Ellis the missionary, would recollect that very little was known respecting this fertile tract of north-eastern Madagascar. He thought it was highly to the credit of a bishop of our Church that he should have gone through this region and given us so good a description of it.

Mr. J. CRAWFURD said they were greatly obliged to the Bishop of Mauritius for the account he had given of this little-known part of Madagascar. The people of Madagascar, especially the Hovas, seemed on the whole to be in a better position and in a higher state of civilisation than the people of Africa generally, more particularly on the east coast. They owed this to an accidental and hitherto unexplained intercourse which they formerly had with the Malays, a race inhabiting a region 3000 miles distant. How the Malays got to Madagascar he would not venture to say. But the Malay language was there, as he had before had occasion to observe at meetings of the Society. He had counted at least 150 Malay words, very clearly to be distinguished from the common language of the country, these including the whole of their numerals up to one thousand. The Africans on the continent generally counted up to ten, very rarely up to one hundred ; but here were the complete numerals of the Malay, up to one thousand. The names for many things, such as rice, the yam, &c., were Malayan. Still they were essentially African negroes, a very indocile and unimprovable race. With their many advantages they ought to have made greater progress. They possessed the horse, ox, and the hog, with rice, yams, millet, maize. Supposing the Maories possessed all these, what a people they would have been ! what a superior genius they displayed as compared with these Africans ! He did not at all agree with the advice of

Mr. Saunders, that we should lay a strong hold of Africa. He did not know what we could lay a strong hold of except sheer barbarism. He knew what would lay a strong hold of us, and that was malaria. These regions were not fit for colonisation by Europeans, because they were almost entirely tropical. The very description which the Bishop gave of the plague of mosquitoes was enough to keep Europeans out of Madagascar. With regard to the civilisation of Africa, it was very clear that almost all the civilisation which the Africans had received had been derived from foreign quarters. It was mortifying to us to think that it was the Arabs and the Mohamedan religion that had improved the Africans. Wherever they happened to be converted to Mohamedanism, they were sure to be more civilised than when they remained mere pagans; better clothed, better fed, and more humanised, giving up those horrible rites which characterised the native religion.

3. Diary of a Hill-Trip on the borders of Arracan. By LIEUTENANT
T. H. LEWIN.

THIS paper consisted of extracts from a report, by the author, of a hazardous journey he and his party had recently performed, in the course of their police duty, amongst the wild hill-tribes of the borders of Bengal, Arracan, and Burmah. The diary commences on the 15th November, 1865, and terminates with the arrival of the author at Chittagong on the 11th February, 1866, after a narrow escape from a hostile party of the Shindoo tribe, who forced them to take refuge for two nights in the jungle.

MR. CRAWFURD explained that this paper was a portion of the diary of one of a number of officers called "Superintendents of Police" on the eastern frontiers of Bengal, where the two Eastern types of people, the Hindoo and the Mongolian, meet. Lieutenant Lewin was engaged in this duty, and towards the conclusion of the diary gave an interesting account of his adventurous attempt to penetrate the territory of these wild tribes. Between Burmah Proper and Pegu lies a district peopled by the Arracanese and a number of other tribes, all speaking different languages. In attempting to penetrate into the country, Lieutenant Lewin and Lieutenant Monro and their party were surrounded and pursued, and they saved their lives with the utmost difficulty and with the loss of all their property.

The PRESIDENT, in expressing the thanks of the Society for this communication, said Lieutenant Lewin had displayed in this journey that gallantry common to British explorers, of which they were much accustomed to hear in the rooms of the Geographical Society.

Before the conclusion of the meeting the President announced that the Council had that day voted a further grant of 50*l.* towards the expenses of Mr. Gerhard Rohlfs' journey in Central Northern Africa. This adventurous young German, a native of Bremen, had succeeded in penetrating alone, from Tripoli to Kuka, on the shores of Lake Tshad, whence he had written to the Society announcing his intention of proceeding at once to Wadai, where Dr. Vogel was murdered, and he hoped to recover the papers of that traveller.